

Divine Appointments

President Timothy L. Farnes, *Young Men General President*

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION • SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026 • OCTOBER 2026 GENERAL CONFERENCE

THE BIG IDEA

Because I take Jesus Christ's name upon me, I can pray for eyes to see the people God puts in my path and help them with compassion.

You'll need: Nothing.

1 HOOK

2 MIN

QUICK STORY President Farnes was exhausted and discouraged and almost skipped the temple. In the dressing room someone asked how he was. It was Elder Dallin H. Oaks, then an Apostle. President Farnes forced a smile and said everything was great. When he came out, Elder Oaks was waiting and said: "Brother, tell me how you are really doing." They talked, and it changed his life. Five years later he asked Elder Oaks if he remembered that day. Guess what Elder Oaks said.

Then: Elder Oaks didn't remember it at all. Seeing his disappointment, he added: "But it's what we do. Isn't it?"

2 KEY TEACHINGS FROM PRESIDENT FARNES

8–10 MIN

1 It's what we do

"As covenant followers of Jesus Christ, we minister with compassion to whomever God places in our path."

— President Timothy L. Farnes • exact words

FOR AGES 8–11: MAKE IT CONCRETE

Elder Oaks noticed a forced smile and took two extra minutes. That's all it took. You can do that for a friend who says "I'm fine" but clearly isn't.

DEEP CUT • AGES 12–16

Every Sunday at the sacrament we witness we're willing to take Jesus Christ's name upon us. President Farnes said: "It means that when someone encounters us, they should experience something of Jesus Christ—His kindness, His patience, His hope, His love, His compassion." What would people experience after five minutes with you?

2 Eyes to see

"To Jesus, these people were not interrupting His mission. They were His mission."

— President Timothy L. Farnes • exact words

FOR AGES 8–11: MAKE IT CONCRETE

In the story of the good Samaritan, others walked past the hurt man. One man saw him. He stopped, helped, and paid for his care (Luke 10:30–37). President Farnes called moments like that divine appointments.

DEEP CUT • AGES 12–16

He showed the pattern in the story: "Seeing awakened compassion. Compassion moved him to act. And his actions changed a life forever." See, feel, act. Which step is usually the one you skip?

3 Minister to the one right in front of you

“All we had to do was see the person God had placed in our path, look with compassion rather than judgment, and then act.”

— President Timothy L. Farnes · exact words

FOR AGES 8–11: MAKE IT CONCRETE

At an airport, President Farnes saw a young missionary crying, holding his boarding pass and an alarm clock. It was his first flight alone. The Farneses helped him, and the only empty seat on the plane turned out to be right next to President Farnes.

DEEP CUT · AGES 12–16

Be honest: his first move was to go back to his book with his earbuds in. The Spirit prompted him to look again. Earbuds, phones, and busy schedules can make us miss divine appointments. How could you look again this week?

3 INTERACTIVE MOMENT

2–3 MIN

SPOT THE DIVINE APPOINTMENT Read each scene and have the kids say what they’d see, feel, and do: (1) A new kid eats lunch alone. (2) Your little brother slams his door after a game. (3) Grandma calls right when you’re about to start a game. (4) Someone at church sits in the back by themselves.

Reveal: There’s no perfect answer, just the pattern: see the person, feel compassion instead of judgment, do one small thing. That’s what Jesus did.

4 TALK ABOUT IT

3 MIN

YOUNGER (8–11)

Who is someone at school or church who might need a friend this week?

OLDER (12–16)

What makes it hardest for you to notice people: phone, being busy, being shy, worrying what others think? What helps?

5 RECAP: THE KIDS EXPLAIN IT

2 MIN

Ask the kids: What is a divine appointment? What are the three steps in the good Samaritan pattern? Why did Elder Oaks say, “But it’s what we do. Isn’t it?”

Listen for: God puts people in our path. See, feel compassion, act. Taking Christ’s name means people experience something of Him through us.

6 TESTIMONY OF JESUS CHRIST

1 MIN

A parent shares a time someone noticed you when you needed it, and how it showed you Jesus Christ’s love.

7 THIS WEEK, AS A FAMILY

1 MIN

ONE THING TO DO Each morning this week, pray for eyes to see one divine appointment. At dinner, share who God put in your path and what you did.

☐ Mon ☐ Tue ☐ Wed ☐ Thu ☐ Fri ☐ Sat ☐ Sun

Scripture: Luke 10:30–37; Moroni 4:3; Mosiah 18:8–9 · **Full talk:** [churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2026/10/22farnes](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2026/10/22farnes)

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